

UPTON-ON-SEVERN

RURAL

SANITARY

DISTRICT.

---

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1945.

BY

A. F. TURNER, M.B., B. Ch., D.P.H.

WITH

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

BY

H. E. FIRTH, Cert. Royal San. Ins.

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1945.

To the Chairman, and Members of the District Council,  
Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is rather unusual to write the Annual Report for a period during which the writer was not in office. I think it is desirable to do so, however, as it will put the statistical data on record, and by doing so I will quickly gain a sound knowledge of the affairs of the district.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area - 50,947 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population: 12,690.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books: 3,810.

Rateable Value £58,780. Sum represented by a penny rate: £243.

Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS.

Legitimate:	Males	87.	Females	84.
Illegitimate:	Males	9.	Females	10.
Total:	Males	96.	Females	94.
Grand Total:		190.		

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 14.9.  
Birth-rate per 1,000 for England and Wales: 16. 1.

STILL BIRTHS. (all legitimate) Males 4. Females 3. Total 7.  
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 35.5.

DEATHS: Males 66. Females 61. Total 127.

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 10.0.  
" " " " " " (England & Wales) : 11.4.

Deaths from puerperal sepsis: Nil.

Deaths from other puerperal causes: Nil.

Deaths of infants under one year of age: Leg: 3. Illeg: 2.

Deaths of infants under 1 yr. per 1000 births: 26.32.

" " " " (for England & Wales): 46.0.

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate births, 17.60.

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births, 105.26.

Deaths from Cancer (All Ages): 23.

" " Measles (All ages): 0.

" " Whooping Cough (All ages): 0.

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 0.

Section B.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Name.

QUIRKE, M.J., M.B., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.
FALLINGER, O.D., B.M., B.Ch.	Medical Officer, Isolation Hospital.
FIRTH, H.E., M.S.I.A.	Chief Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.
CROMWELL, E.J. M.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspector.
SWEETING, Miss D.	Matron, Isolation Hospital.
HUTCHINS, Miss J.	Sister, Isolation Hospital.





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Illegitimate 2.

Death-rate per thousand live births: 26.32.

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HUTCHINS. Miss J.	Sister, Isolation Hospital.





### Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological and Pathological examinations are carried out at the County Laboratory, Worcester. As there is a rapid bus service from Upton-on-Severn to Worcester and quick delivery at the other end, this arrangement is satisfactory.

### Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by St. Johns Ambulance Service from Worcester and Malvern, and are very satisfactory and efficient. For infectious cases the Malvern Urban District and Worcester City Ambulances are used.

### Home Nursing.

There are at present eight District Nurses employed by the various district Nursing Associations, and those who cover wide areas have cars supplied. In addition to their district visiting these nurses do school medical, maternity and child welfare work which is an ideal arrangement, as the nurse has the complete confidence of the family and the full history of any case at her finger tips. These assets more often than not compensate for the specialised knowledge of the qualified health visitor. It seems a pity that the health legislators have not seen fit to arrange for this state of affairs generally under the New Act.

### Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Infant Welfare Centres are run at Kempsey, Upton-on-Severn, Welland and Severn Stoke. The problem of running Welfare Centres in country districts is a very difficult one, as it is impossible to have them within pram pushing distance of each home. Some form of welfare service is considered essential in the remote parishes as the children growing up there do not seem to be so well nourished as their urban contemporaries. One reason may be the lack of opportunity for the mothers to get offal, fresh fish and other "off the ration" foods when they are available. The lack of the wide range of baby foods and vitamins supplied by welfare centres, and the advice given to mothers must also be contributory factors to the lower standard of nutrition.

### Hospitals.

The Isolation Hospital, 26 beds, is used for the isolation and treatment of Scarlet Fever, under the scheme for pooling diseases. It is suited for this as it lacks cubicle accommodation. The Hospital Survey for the West Midlands area recommends that it is closed down. (This was done in July 1946.)

### Section C.

#### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The Rural District lies to the East of the Malvern Hills in the Severn Valley, extending from the boundaries of the City of Worcester in the North to the outskirts of Tewkesbury in the South. It is essentially an agricultural and fruit growing country; those not engaged on the land find work in the industries of Worcester City, Malvern, Tewkesbury, and as far afield as Gloucester. The Ministry of Supply has set up Telecommunication Research Establishments at Malvern and Defford, and have introduced a light industry into what was previously an agricultural and residential area. Apart from a temporary housing problem this should result in a better balanced community, tending to check the numbers of young people who are forced to look for work outside the district.






The vital statistics show, as far as they are able, that the health of the people is satisfactory and the birth-rate and infantile mortality rates are good. A glance at the infectious diseases, table lll, shows that there were no cases of diphtheria, enteric, cerebro spinal fever, poliomyelitis, smallpox or puerperal fever and only one case of puerperal pyrexia. This is the second year running that the diphtheria figure has been nil and follows the extensive immunisation campagne of 1943. There were 54 cases of measles and 12 cases of whooping cough notified. In country districts where the doctor is often unable to visit more than once and often cannot come to a definite diagnosis immediately on these two diseases, it is thought that notification is not so accurate as in the case of the other infectious diseases which are sent to hospital. The important thing is that there were no deaths from either and pneumonia was not a complication of any case of measles notified.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

A. F. TURNER.

Medical Officer of Health.



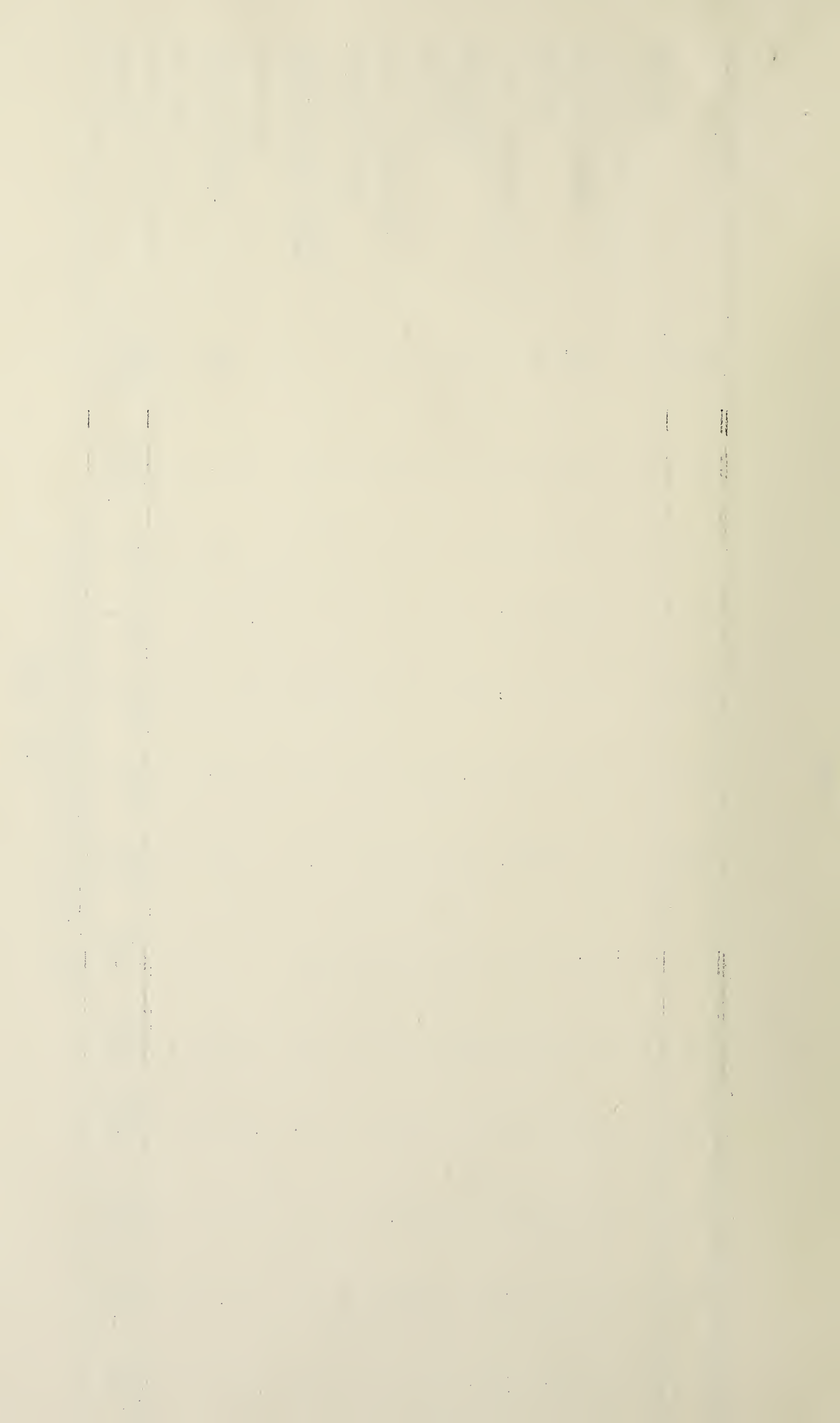
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TABIE 111.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE 1945.

Disease.	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-19 yrs.	20-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 & over.
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	14	-	1	-	-	2	3	3	4	1	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever (in- cluding Paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eucperal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eucperal Pyrexia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia.	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	5	-
Erysipelas.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	54	2	4	2	6	6	28	3	1	1	1	-	-
Whooping Cough.	12	1	-	1	2	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	92	3	5	3	8	9	38	7	6	3	4	6	-





# RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

RETURN SHOWING NUMBER OF HOUSES SURVEYED DURING YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1945.  
AS SUBMITTED TO THE JOINT COUNTY RURAL HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Name of Parish.	No. of Houses Inspected.	Classification of Houses Inspected.				Houses included in the preceding four categories which have been noted for action under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.
		1.	2.	3.	4.	
Porrow.	39	1	7	20	11	7
Bushley.	35	1	12	19	3	4
Birtsmorton.	25	-	1	16	8	3
Castlemorton.	88	-	25	42	21	8
Eldersfield.	67	-	9	42	16	10
Hanley Castle.	78	3	29	38	8	6
Holdfast.	16	7	-	7	2	2
Kempsay.	1	1	-	-	-	-
Queenhill.	18	9	-	4	5	-
Little Malvern.	10	-	2	5	3	-
Longdon.	46	-	13	30	3	2
Pendock.	18	-	3	13	2	2
Upton-on-Severn.	79	11	26	38	4	8
Welland.	48	2	10	33	3	1
Severn Stoke.	2	-	-	-	2	-
	570	35	137	307	91	53

Classifications: 1 - Satisfactory in all respects: 2 - Minor Defects: 3 - Requiring repair, structural alteration

4 - Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense. ~~xx~~ -4a-



# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council,

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I again have the honour to present a report of the Sanitary Inspector's work during the year. The report follows the lines of previous war time reports, and is condensed so as to give general information upon work which could be undertaken under war conditions.

The Council are fortunate in obtaining the services of a very able and competent Sanitary Inspector in Mr. E.J. Cromwell, and with the help of my pupil, Mr. I. Hughes, whom the Council appointed as an Assistant, much valuable work will be undertaken and will be evident in future years reports.

## General Sanitary Conditions.

### Housing.

The whole area continues to house a population greater than that of pre-war years, and although certain families as Government and Voluntary evacuated persons have gradually left, families are living in premises which are far below the standard of fitness desired, and unfortunately these housing conditions will exist until new and better houses can be erected. There is evidence that overcrowding has increased and these conditions will continue to become more acute during the interim period to the conclusion of the major portion of the new housing programme. Priority is being given to the work in connection with the housing survey advised under the "Hobhouse" report, and it is hoped to submit to the Joint County Housing Rural Committee by February 1947 a completed survey classifying houses within the categories agreed by the Joint County Housing Committee.

### Water Supplies.

Although from a quantity point of view the position has been fairly satisfactory it is evident that as regards quality the well supplies generally are unsatisfactory. This is especially noted in the old house wells where they are badly sited and poorly steined, resulting in the easy access of surface pollution.

Three samples taken from the Upton-on-Severn Bore Hole supply were all considered satisfactory by the County Analyst. A comprehensive piped water scheme to supply a greater part of the rural area is urgently necessary.

### Sewerage.

The sewerage arrangements in some of the parishes give rise to complaints, and until some scheme or schemes are prepared for dealing with sewerage from villages or combined villages, little can be done to improve conditions. Villages in particular where conditions cause anxiety are Severn Stoke, Nowland, Madresfield and Ripple.

### Food Inspection.

Frequent inspections were made of premises preparing, storing and selling of food stuffs, and generally conditions were satisfactory. The butchers shops and premises continue to be kept in a very clean condition. The bakers premises are generally rather old buildings, but they are kept as clean as possible under the circumstances. Again the provision of a piped water supply would help in cleanliness of the premises.







The food retailers appear most anxious to co-operate in the prevention of the sale of any food which might be unfit.

#### Refuse Collection.

The fortnightly collection afforded the area has continued to give good service, and it is estimated that about 85% of the premises in the area now receive the collection. The amount of salvage was lower for this year than previous years. Much work is necessary on the tips owing to accumulations gathered during the war years and aggravated during this period by having to receive refuse from three large American Hospitals.

#### Rats and Mice Destruction.

The Council, jointly with two neighbouring Authorities have engaged the services of a professional man, and although at the moment most of his time is spent on tips, disposal works etc., it is hoped eventually to systematically survey and treat colonies of infestations.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H.E. FIRTH.

Sanitary Inspector.

#### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Housing Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	750
General Complaints (inspections made)	..	...	...	...	...	59
Visits for water and milk samples	...	...	...	...	...	44
Food inspections	...	...	...	...	...	19
Bakehouse inspections	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cowshed inspections	...	...	...	...	...	33
Infectious Disease Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	10
Tents and Vans Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	10
Inspection of Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	61
Cafe and kitchens inspections	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rats and Mice Destruction inspection	...	...	...	...	...	12
Summer Camping Ground inspection	...	...	...	...	...	1
Vermineous Premises inspection	...	...	...	...	...	3
Repair Licencing inspection (Civil Building)	..	...	...	...	...	41
Miscellaneous.	...	...	...	...	...	23
						<hr/>
Total Inspections.	...	...	...	...	...	1,084.
						<hr/>

#### Infectious Disease.

Visits to premises for investigation ...	...	...	10
Premises disinfected after notifiable disease	...	...	14
Premises disinfected after other diseases ...	...	...	4



Food Condemned and Unfit for Human Consumption.

<u>Article.</u>	<u>Quantity.</u>
Bacon.	50 lbs.
Fish.	70 "
Eggs.	295
Dried Eggs.	14 lbs.
Oranges.	551 lbs.
Apples.	273 "
Oats.	82 "
Prunes.	75 "
Suet.	84 "
Sweets.	14 "
Raisins.	96 "
Cake.	500
Pickles.	14 "
Tinned Food.	140 Tins.
Marmalade.	9 lbs.
Grape Fruit.	20 lbs.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Ages 1 - 5 yrs.

144

Ages 5 - 15 yrs.

26

Total for year - 170.

Total immunised - years 1940 - 45 inclusive - 2, 215.

Water Samples.

No. of samples submitted from private well supplies ... 17.  
No. of such samples "unfit" or quoted "suspicious" ... 15.  
Total No. of samples submitted for analysis. .... 23.  
No. of new wells sunk as result of informal action 1.  
No. of wells cleaned and repaired as result of informal action 6.

Analyst's report on latest sample - Upton-on-Severn Bore Hole Supply.

Chemical Examination:-

Parts per 100,000.

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100° C) ...	None.
Solids in Solution ( " " " ) ...	110
" " " After Ignition ...	100
Chlorides Calculated as Common Salt ...	21
Hardness Permanent ...	11
" Temporary ...	7
" Total ...	18
Free and Saline Ammonia. ...	0.016
Albuminoid Ammonia. ...	0.0006
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates) ...	None
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites) ...	None
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C ...	0.013
Toxic Metals. ...	None detected.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies Developing upon Agar.	
(a) In two days at 37° C. ...	14 per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22° C ...	60 " one m.l.
Coli-Acrogenes (Presumptive Coli) count ..	1 " 100 m.l. <del>1</del>
Streptococci ...	Absent.

≠ Non faecal type.

Remarks - The sample is ~~not~~ fit for drinking.

(Signed) H.E. MONK.

County Analyst & Bacteriologist.





• Milk Samples.

No. of samples taken	...	...	...	...	22
No. with colony count of under 10,000 per ml.					3
No. with colony count of 10,000 to 20,000 per ml.					6
No. with colony count of 20,000 to 100,000	"	"			9
No. with colony count of over 100,000	"	"			4

Analyst's report upon latest sample of Pasteurised Milk,  
Producer Messrs. T.A. Tilt & Sons, Hanley Castle.

Specimen of Milk marked Tilt, Upton-on-Severn Elementary School, received from Mr. H.E. Firth, Council Offices, Upton-on-Severn on 26th July 1945.

Colony count  
of bacteria ~ 68, 000 per millilitre.

Presumptive  
Cold Test . . Present in 1, 1/10th,  
& 1/100th. Absent in  
1/1000th ml.

Methylene Blue not decolourised in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour.

The sample passed the phosphatase test 2.0. Blue Units.

(Signed) H.E. MONK.

County Analyst and Bacteriologist.

